Question on Notice

No. 1052

Asked on 16 September 2026

MS S BOLTON ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON B MICKELBERG)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the lack of alternative accommodation via housing agencies for noncompliant vessel owners in hardship impacted by Stage 6 of the Noosa River Management Plan—

Will the Minister provide dedicated funds to MSQ or grants to owners for vessel relocation, or alternately, transitional mooring permits until housing is found for these residents?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Noosa River Management Plan (Noosa River Plan) was developed following extensive stakeholder and community consultation which commenced in 2021. I understand that the Member was closely involved in the development of the Noosa River Plan.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) delivered the sixth and final stage of the Noosa River Plan which was implemented on 1 January 2026. The sixth stage limits vessels over five metres to a maximum of 28 days anchoring per financial year across the Noosa River and adjoining waters.

TMR's Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) understands there are challenges faced by a number of vessel owners in complying with the new regulations and has deliberately staged the introduction of the Noosa River Plan over two and a half years to allow owners the maximum amount of time to organise relocation options.

MSQ continue to engage with vessel owners to achieve compliance with the anchoring restrictions. MSQ officers work closely with each case involving a non-compliant vessel owner, assessing each situation on its individual merits. Where special circumstances or hardship is identified, MSQ focuses on working collaboratively with vessel owners to achieve voluntary compliance in a considered, responsible way.

While continuing to ensure compliance with the regulatory framework and the long-term management of objectives for the Noosa River, MSQ officers have been and will continue to take a considerate approach in their dealings with affected persons, recognising the diverse personal circumstances that may be involved. MSQ officers work with YouTurn—a local organisation which addresses and supports homelessness in the Noosa region—and the Department of Housing and Public Works to help facilitate access to appropriate assistance and support, where required. This approach has enabled several individuals to secure accommodation or relocate to family support networks.

MSQ does not currently offer transitional buoy mooring approvals and it is not intended to introduce such permits. Vessel ownership carries ongoing obligations and costs, including responsibility for the financial costs associated with the ownership, maintenance, and compliance of the vessel.